



Contents:

Harvest Gathering and SECC Updates.....	2
Mystery Photo	2
Reentry Roundtable	3
MI-GOAL and MDOC Represent Michigan	4
Reporting Computer-Related Problems	4
Employee Lifesavers.....	5
Deputy Warden Announcements	6
People Make the Difference.....	7



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DIRECTOR HEYNS DISCUSSES A STRONGER, LEANER AND MISSION-FOCUSED DEPARTMENT



This is final part of a three-part series on the new direction of the Michigan Department of Corrections. Director Dan Heyns shares accomplishments, rationale, and his vision for the Department.

In the Spotlight

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” - Gandhi

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is experiencing changes at all levels and in every facet of the agency. Director Dan Heyns understands that these changes may be uncomfortable, but are necessary to meet the mission.

He also realizes that these changes will make the Department stronger, leaner, and more mission-focused. Director Heyns wants that focus to be a prison-oriented one.

Stronger

The MDOC must be strong enough to protect Michigan’s citizens and provide supervision and care for over 43,000 prisoners under our care. That means we need to ensure that our resources are appropriately directed toward that goal. The Department will focus on providing evidence-based prisoner programming in a timely manner that ensures prisoners are ready to parole at their earliest release date (ERD). We are also dedicated to providing enough programming to eliminate wait lists and ensure programming is delivered prior to the ERD. Stronger also means making the right decisions and putting the best people in the right positions to make difficult choices and ensure success.

Leaner

Our Department will be smaller and utilize fewer state resources in the future. That effort started as soon as Director Heyns took the helm. There will ultimately be fewer prisoners and fewer employees. That effort includes competitively bidding certain segments of the MDOC. The Department is also looking at how mentally ill prisoners can be diverted from prison into other treatment programs that still provide public protection, but that also provide enhanced therapeutic treatment outside a prison environment. Leaner also means a smaller overall prisoner population. There are many ways this can be safely accomplished, some are within the department’s control while others require legislative action.

MISSION-FOCUSED (Continued on page 2)

MISSION-FOCUSED (Continued from page 1)

We will pursue efforts to safely reduce the prisoner population in Michigan. We are reorganizing Correctional Facilities Administration to reduce the overall number of supervisors and administrators inside our prisons. Officers and first-line supervisors are protected in this action that reduces the number of resident unit managers, eliminates assistant deputy wardens and assistant resident unit supervisors. Other actions to create a leaner agency may include future consolidations and closures based on the needs of the Department.

Mission-Focused

The Mission of the Michigan Department of Corrections is to create a safer Michigan through ef-

fective offender management and supervision in our facilities and communities while holding offenders accountable and promoting their success. Ensuring that prisoners have the resources to improve while in prison is imperative. Making sure that they remain safely locked up while doing so is vital. Working with community partners to support offender success upon release is also inherently important to keeping Michigan's citizens safe. It's your Department. Let's use what Governor Snyder calls "Relentless Positive Action" to make it the best corrections department in the United States.

Do you have an idea that will help our Department? Share it with John Cordell at cordellj@michigan.gov.

HARVEST GATHERING CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The 21st Annual Michigan Harvest Gathering ended October 31, 2011. It was another successful year of gathering food for the needy. One in 10 Michigan citizens will use an area food bank this year, and every donation helps alleviate their hunger. Each year, state employees have helped make a difference in Michigan's communities by generously giving food and funds during the campaign. This year's campaign goal was to raise \$71,500 and 33,000 pounds of food. The results are still being tallied and F.Y.I. will provide details in a future issue.



WHO ARE THESE MYSTERY CORRECTIONS PEOPLE?



This photo was taken in 1980, when members of the Corrections Commission visited the STOP program in Lansing. The program was sponsored by the Michigan Automobile Dealers Association and trained offenders for jobs outside of prison. The interesting history of this photo is that three of the people in it have had facilities named after them. Two of those facilities are still open. Can you identify these mystery people? Their identities are on page 6.

REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

Reentry Roundtable is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the prisoner reentry program.

Doyle Callahan (*at right*) is an ex-offender who exemplifies the true intentions behind the Prisoner Reentry Program. Callahan paroled to the Port Huron Parole Office in December 2010, after serving 6 years in prison for controlled substance delivery and manufacturing. During his incarceration, a chain of unfortunate events in his family made him realize it was time for a change. At that moment in time, he made a decision to embark upon programs where he could make a difference in his life and to the lives of others. While incarcerated, Callahan unambiguously engaged himself in reentry programs to help prepare himself for his reentry into the community as well as becoming an advocate for his fellow inmates. At last, he returned to the community and was truly grateful that prisoner reentry was there to assist him with housing, cognitive programs, matching with a mentor, employment services, transportation, and identification.



Upon his release, Callahan was placed into transitional housing for 90 days. His stay in assisted housing provided him an opportune time to establish and achieve his short-term goals. Callahan enrolled in substance abuse treatment and cognitive behavioral programs, and confessed that, "Thinking for a Change is a good program. I was addicted to the money." Proclaimed Callahan, "It is a struggle with your conscience and without counseling, you will go right back to it." Callahan explained that several ex-offenders in his situation admitted that the money addiction is stronger than the substance addiction. It doesn't matter how long people may have been stuck in a sense of limitations. If they go into a darkened room and turn on the light, it doesn't matter if the room has been dark for a day, a week, or years. Once we control our capacity for life, love and happiness, the light has been turned on. Callahan enthusiastically proclaimed "my mentor was my biggest motivator and supporter toward my success. He was always there and so was Prisoner Reentry staff. I am appreciative for their support."

Prisoner Reentry staff referred Callahan to SONS (Save our Neighborhoods & Streets) where he volunteered his time to give back to the community. Prisoner Reentry staff also referred him to the RCAR (Road Construction Apprentice Readiness) program through Michigan Works!. RCAR taught him several skills including math, construction blue print design, welding, etc. He successfully completed commercial Driver's License (CDL) training offered through the program and was awarded his CDL license. "Opportunities come along maybe once in a lifetime. The program really challenged my mental and physical abilities and enhanced my knowledge, and most importantly, helped me network with different professional tradesmen and offered a variety of hands-on experiences." The skills acquired through RCAR aided Callahan in obtaining full-time employment as a commercial truck driver.

The tools provided through Prisoner Reentry have made a significant impact in Callahan's successful transition. He will discharge from parole in December 2011, and he indicated his goals are "to continue working as a truck driver, enroll in college to obtain a masters degree in business administration, and be a mentor to the younger generation of criminals. Ultimately, to try and make a difference and bring them to the good side and be proud of it!" Callahan expressed, "life would have been extra hard without the assistance of Prisoner Reentry. It was not just the support and service; it makes a difference when someone truly cares about your success and continually offers you encouragement, and that is the greatest motivator."

The article was written by Paula Keena, Thumb Region Prisoner Reentry Community Coordinator.

MDOC EMPLOYEES ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Professionals from the Michigan Department of Corrections and three other local law enforcement agencies in Michigan attended this year's 15th Annual International Conference of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Professionals, and Allies. This year's professional development and training conference was held in Las Vegas, NV, and attendees covered all associated costs themselves. Among its 125 participants were nearly 40 uniformed staff from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and two police officers from as far away as Amsterdam, Netherlands.



Left to Right: R Cole Bouck, Janet Conners, James Sims, Michelle Bryant, and Erin Linn.

The Michigan Gay Officers Action League (MI-GOAL) was represented at the conference by two Department employees, MI-GOAL President R Cole Bouck of the Office of Research and Planning and Vice President James Sims, an Officer at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility. Other Michigan and MI-GOAL associated attendees were University of Michigan Sergeant Janet Conners (MI-GOAL Secretary), Meridian Township Police Officer Erin Linn, (MI-GOAL Treasurer), and Lansing Police Detective Michelle Bryant.

Information about MI-GOAL can be found at: www.mi-goal.com.

REPORTING COMPUTER-RELATED PROBLEMS

To report computer related problems or request assistance from DTMB staff, please go to the following web-site <http://requestit.state.mi.us/RequestIT/>. Once you answer the questions, your Remedy case number will be displayed. Please make a note of the Remedy case number for future communications with the Client Service Center. For best service, please provide as many details as possible about the problem.

You may also call 1-800-968-2644 or 517-241-9700 for High Priority Issues.

If you need a Password Reset for CMIS, MIPC, NextGen or OMNI (Includes PBIS, CPMS, OCMS, OETS, TRATS, STG, Crime Victims, Commissary, PC Inventory, Visitor Tracking, Trust, DAS, Litigation, APAIS, and PATS) this web page is not applicable, please follow the instructions below.

1. E-mail your request to: OMNI_User_Accounts@michigan.gov.
2. The Subject of the e-mail should be Password Reset.
3. The Message should contain your legal, full first and last name, work location (facility or office), and your user code.



Contacting any source other than the above may result in a delay of service.

MDOC LIFESAVERS

CPR and AED Save Offender

On October 19, 2011 at about 3:55 p.m., an offender from the Tuscola Residential Reentry Program (TRRP) had an apparent heart attack while completing work crew duties at Thumb Correctional Facility (TCF).

Seeing the medical emergency, Terry Honicutt, James Polly, Ronald Rabideau and Vern Lober rushed to his aid. Honicutt completed an initial assessment and told Polly that he had no signs of breathing or circulation. Polly relayed information via phone to the control center while Honicutt and Rabideau started CPR. Polly cleared the area and Lober called for the automatic external defibrillator (AED). A few moments later, officer Schrubee arrived with the AED and a shock was performed on the offender.



CPR and the AED had the offender responsive when ambulance personnel arrived. He was transported to a medical center and treated for his condition. Without the efforts of the correctional staff, the offender would not have survived. Kudos to TCF Maintenance staff for saving a life.

Officer Saves Choking Prisoner

On July 14, 2011, a prisoner in the protective unit dining area at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility began choking. He stood up and approached Officer David LaPointe. LaPointe administered abdominal thrusts to the prisoner until the obstruction was dislodged. The prisoner immediately began breathing normally and needed no further medical attention. His efforts likely saved the prisoners life. For his efforts, Officer LaPointe received the Department's Lifesaving Award.



Officers Rescue People from House Fire

On June 26, 2011, Officers Craig Kemp, Gordon Hansen and Tim Schafer were on their way to work when they observed smoke coming from a house. They called EMS and went to the home to contact the residents. The officers knocked on the front door, but nobody answered. They banged harder and the door popped open. The officers went inside and discovered three people sleeping in the home. There was no visible fire at the time, but considerable smoke, so the one officer advised the homeowner to cut power to the house at the electrical box. All three people were escorted safely from the home. Firefighters arrived and extinguished the fire with only minor damage to the home. The exemplary efforts of Officers Kemp, Hansen, and Schafer saved three lives and a home by choosing to act.



Officer Comes to the Aid of Seizure Victim

Resident Unit Officer Brian Nicholson of St. Louis Correctional Facility recognized a local sports coach having a seizure. He and an area nurse responded to the condition. Nicholson calmly responded to the man, explaining what was happening, comforting him and having the good sense to realize he may have an airway obstruction. The coach had also bitten his tongue and was bleeding significantly from the mouth and was choking on the fluid. Nicholson propped his head up and kept his mouth and airway partially open until the seizure subsided. Nicholson's actions helped control a condition that could have been much worse. For his efforts, he received the Department's Lifesaving Award.



DEPUTY WARDEN POSITIONS ANNOUNCED

The Michigan Department of Corrections has selected individuals for the Deputy Warden positions throughout the prison system. The positions are part of a reorganization of Correctional Facilities Administration at the facility level which eliminates the Assistant Deputy Warden positions throughout the system, reduces the number of Resident Unit Managers and reclassifies ARUS positions to Case Managers. This effort will give more support to officers and 1st line supervisors and give Wardens and Deputy Wardens better hands-on operation of correctional facilities. Those selected for the positions are:

Southern Region

- Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility - Matthew Macauley
- Carson City Correctional Facility - Laura Krick
- Charles Egeler Reception & Guidance Center (RGC): Kim Cargor
- Ionia Correctional Facility - Erica Huss
- G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility - Ken Ryan
- Gus Harrison Correctional Facility - Willis Chapman
- Macomb Correctional Facility - Randall Haas (transferring to Macomb when Mound Correctional Facility closes)
- Michigan Reformatory (RMI): Anthony Stewart
- Thumb Correctional Facility - Lance Schuhmacher (already transferred)
- Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility - David Johnson

Northern Region

- Baraga Correctional Facility - Kenneth Tribley and Shane Place
- Alger Correctional Facility - Scott Sprader
- Marquette Branch Prison - Jeffrey Larson
- Kinross Correctional Facility - Jerry Harwood and Kathy Olson
- Chippewa Correctional Facility - Tom Mackie and Connie Horton
- Oaks Correctional Facility - Rick Sharp
- Saginaw Correctional Facility - Don Ricumstrict
- St. Louis Correctional Facility - Kelly Best
- Central Michigan Correctional Facility - Mark McCullick
- Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility - Rick Smith

Please congratulate each of them on their new assignment.



Who are they? Did you know?

L to R: Thomas Eardley, Hugh Lee, Dr. Duane Waters, Florence Crane, Don LeDuc, and G. Robert Cotton, Ph.D.

OAKS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TAKES THIRD OVERALL IN GOVERNOR'S CUP MATCH

On September 8, 2011, the Oaks Correctional Facility Shoot team members competed in the Jackson Pistol Match which was held at the Jackson Police Pistol Range. The team took first place in the Corrections Divisions and third place overall in the Governor's Cup match. Teams competing in this event are comprised of various law enforcement agencies from throughout the state.



From Left: Warden Curtin, Dee Holden, Randall Reimer, Margaret Ney, Keith Skidmore and Gary Benn.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY RECEIVES "KEEP MICHIGAN BEAUTIFUL" AWARD



Central Michigan Correctional Facility was awarded a Keep Michigan Beautiful Award by Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. Renee Tokar, Horticulture Trades Instructor accepted the award last week at the annual conference and awards program in Grand Rapids. This year Central Michigan Correctional Facility donated over 12,000 pounds of vegetables and 300 flats of flowers and vegetable plants to area kitchens, food pantries, community gardens and beautification committees to assist in teaching others to grow their own food, enhance the environment and beautify their communities.

PRISON BUILD DELIVERS BUNK BEDS TO CHILDREN IN NEED

Saginaw Correctional Facility has made more bunk beds for underprivileged children. The facility's Prison Build Program, run by Jack Adam, recently delivered the beds to Genesee County Department of Human Services (DHS). Prison Build has been making bunk beds, toddler beds and dressers for DHS since 2004, and since that time, Prison Build has made over 2,000 for the under privileged and those in need.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

